ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

—OF THE—

TWELFTH ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

Conecuh Baptist Association,

—HELD WITH—

BAPTIST CHURCH AT EVERGREEN, CONECUH COUNTY, ALA.,

OCTOBER 18, 19 20, 1898.

OFFICERS.

M. F. Brooks ..... Brewton, Ala.
W. D. Kyle, Clerk and Treasurer ..... Brewton, Ala.

The next session of the Association will be held with the Church at Mount Olive, Butler County, Ala., on the first Tuesday after the third Sunday in October, 1899.

Montgomery, Ala.:
Alabama Printing Company,
1898.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Reading letters and enrolling names of delegates.
2. Election of officers.
3. Appointment of Committee on Preaching.
4. Recognizing messengers from corresponding bodies.
5. Invitation to ministers present, not delegated, with us.
6. Appointment of committees to report during the session—
    1. Time and Place.
    2. Nominations.
    3. Appointment.
    4. Finance.
7. Receiving new churches.
8. Reports of committees appointed at last session.
9. Reports of committees of the present session.
10. Motions and resolutions.
11. Miscellaneous business.
12. Treasurer's report.
13. Disbursements of funds on hand.

NOMINATIONS FOR SESSION OF 1898.

State Missions—J. W. Stewart, E. P. Lovelace, M. A. Ray.

Home Missions—A. T. Sims, M. A. Whitehurst and W. H. Anderson.

Foreign Missions—C. S. Rabb, H. C. Rankin and A. Pittman.

Christian Education—J. A. Liner, D. Gillis, J. E. Cheatham.

Woman's Work—G. R. Farnham, Dr. M. McCreary, U. C. Vinson.

Sunday Schools—Alex Stewart, William Dunlap, Peter Spence.

Temperance—J. F. Jones, N. R. Leigh, Jr., J. H. McClure.

Institute Work—A. T. Sims, J. T. Fincher, J. W. Crook.

Orphans' Home—W. M. Murray, J. M. Rabb, Dr. J. A. McCreary.

Executive Committee—S. P. Lindsey, C. S. Rabb, Dr. P. M. Bruner, E. P. Lovelace and D. M. Powell.

Introductory Sermon—S. P. Lindsey; alternate, I. Spence.

Missionary Sermon—W. M. Murray; alternate, A. T. Sims.

Delegate to Southern Baptist Convention—J. W. Stewart; alternate, A. T. Sims.

Delegates to State Convention—M. F. Brooks, C. S. Rabb A. T. Sims, S. P. Lindsey, N. R. Leigh, Jr., J. H. Higdon, B. B. McKenzie, W. D. Kyle, Rev. W. M. Murray, W. T. Smith.

Respectfully submitted,

L. M. Bradley,
W. M. Rabb,
I. D. Stewart.

MINUTES.

The Conecuh Baptist Association assembled for its Twelfth Annual Session with the Evergreen Baptist church at 11 o'clock a. m. on Tuesday, Oct. 18th, 1898, and was called to order by Bro. P. M. Bruner, the former Moderator, Bro. W. D. Kyle, Clerk, pro. tem.

Letters were read and messengers enrolled from different churches, as follows:

Arkadelphia—J. H. Keyser, Geo. Lee, A. B. Lee.
Antioch—C. A. Thames.
Brewton—E P. Lovelace, Rev. L. M. Bradley, M. F. Brooks, N. R. Leigh, Jr., B. A. Lide, Jno. M. Rabb.
Brushy Creek—L. B. Cohron, Lorenzo Conway.
Bethany—M. F. Fail.
Brooklyn—J. A. Culpeper, C. A. Thames, W. N. Snowdon, J. T. Williams.
Castleberry—J. E. Brauner, D. L. Carter, W. R. Watson.
Cedar Creek—M. C. Kirkland, S. J. Stewart, R. D. Bradshaw.
Catauba Springs—S. J. Godwin, Jesse Powell.
Chapman—S. M. Henderson, W. T. Smith, Jr., Miss Callie Smith.
Damascus—Frank Clayton, John Coon, A. H. Alford, J. M. Danford, D. L. Coon, Hessie Talbert.
Evergreen—Rev. S. P. Lindsey, J. W. Stewart, G. R. Farnham, P. M. Bruner, L. Finch, W. L. Stallworth, A. E. Henderson, J. A. Liner, M. McCreary, J. T. Fincher, W. J. Murdock.
Elim—W. A. Hicks.
Fairfield—Rev. W. B. Salter, Geo. Powell.
Flomaton—J. D. Stewart, Wm. Dunlap.
Georgiana—Rev. W. M. Murray, A. T. Sims, G. H. Bryan, Misses Callie Vinson and Maggie Glenn.
Greenville—J. G. Little.
Holly Grove—J. R. Wiggins, S. L. Witherington, R. E. Whittle, J. S. Johnson.
Johnsonville—No report.
Mt. Olive—M. A. Ray, J. E. Middleton.
Mt. Carmel—Rev. W. M. Rabb, J. H. McClure.
Mt. Pleasant—J. W. Joyner, J. T. Joyner, L. J. Jackson.
New Home—Letter received. No messengers present.
New Prospect—Letter received. No messengers present.
Old Town—Rev. I. Spence, I. J. Spence.
Olive Branch—G. A. Yates, T. M. Houston, H. G. Brown, A. H. Stokes, N. Butler.
Point Pleasant—A. Pittman, R. D. Smith, M. H. Shanks.
Union—Not reported.

After reading minutes and correcting roll of churches and messengers, an election for permanent officers was ordered, resulting as follows: M. F. Brooks, Moderator; W. D. Kyle, Clerk and Treasurer.

The following churches applied for membership in this Association, referred to committee, favorably reported, and they were unanimous-

ly received, to-wit: Holly Grove and Bethany. (See messengers present.)

Wallace church applied for a letter of dismission, which was adopted.

On motion, the following visiting brethren were cordially invited to participate in the deliberations of this association: Revs. I. L. Taylor, J. E. Holley and A. J. Thames, Pensacola Bay Association; Rev. D. M. Ramsey, J. H. Fore and I. S. Ridgeway, Pine Barren Association; Rev. W. C. Bledsoe, Secretary State Mission Board, and Rev. J. A. Howard, representing the Alabama Baptist.

An invitation being extended, and on motion, the following delegates were selected to attend the Pensacola Bay and Pine Barren Associations, as follows: L. M. Bradley, S. P. Lindsey, Pensacola Bay Associatian, and J. W. Stewart, W. M. Rabb, P. M. Bruner, Pine Barren Association.

Moderator appointed the following Committee on Preaching: Bros. Lindsey, Stewart, and deacons of the Evergreen church.

In the absence of Rev. A. T. Sims, Rev. W. M. Murray was appointed to preach the associational sermon.

The hour of 11:30 a. m. arriving, preaching by Rev. W. M. Murray. Text, Matt. 5:19.

Adjourned for dinner, in which an enjoyable repast was served on the church grounds.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Association reconvened at 2:30 p. m. by prayer and praise service, conducted by Bro. Ramsey.

Order of business again resumed in the appointment of the following committees:

Time and Place—M. A. Ray, I. Spence, J. H. Keyzer
Nominations—L. M. Bradley, W. M. Rabb, I. D. Stewart.
Apportionment—G. R. Farnham, C. A. Thomas Jno. M. Rabb.
Finance—N. R. Leigh, Jr., J. G. Little, W. R. Watson.
Religious Literature and Colportage—G. R. Farnham, A. T. Sims. Geo. Bryan.

The following report was presented and adopted:

REPORT ON WOMAN'S WORK.

The organization of the women into missionary unions and aid societies is one of the most important departments in church work. Every pastor should see and appreciate the vast importance of their help, and by organizing them and giving them the proper encouragement he would soon see the great assistance they would render in upholding his hands and bringing souls to Christ.

God's blessings have manifestly been showered upon them in the past and He will continue to be with them in the future. No nobler example of the result of the work done by them—and they are innumerable—can we have than that of the young woman in Havana who, during the recent blockade of that city, was one of the foremost

in Christ's cause, and after the death of her uncle took charge of the Baptist church property there and did all in her power to feed the starving souls about her. Not alone with bread to keep up physical life, but also upon the bread of life that should last them through eternity. This young woman was educated by our women in one of our Southern female colleges. Another point we might call attention to is the sending of frontier boxes. Only those who have been recipients of those boxes can best attest to their good value, how very much they were appreciated and how soul-stirring was the thought to the missionaries that the good ladies somewhere were remembering and praying for them in their work, their trials and their successes.

The statistics for the past year are as follows:

FROM BREWTON CHURCH.

Women's Missionary Society—			
For church aid and other purposes	$101	00	
Missions	5	00	
Foreign Missions (Miss Kelly)	3	00	
Orphanage	3	00	$112 00

FROM BROOKLYN CHURCH.

Ladies' Aid Society—for Orphanage	$ 3	00	$ 3 00

FROM EVERGREEN CHURCH.

Ladies' working Circle—			
For church repairs, oil, etc	$141	83	
Womans' Missionary Society—			
For Frontier box	32	00	
Self Denial Fund	8	55	
State Missions	15	00	
Foreign Missions (Miss Kelly)	16	85	$214 23

FROM GREENVILLE CHURCH.

Ladies' Aid Society—			
For Foreign Missions	$ 10	00	
Home Missions	10	80	
State Missions	5	50	
Church Aid	29	38	
Orphanage	46	50	
Ministerial Education	5	00	
Frontier Missions	80	20	$187 38
Grand total			$516 71

This total shows what has been contributed by ladies of this Association. The past year the ladies in all the State Missionary Societies contributed $3,790.90. In Southern Baptist Convention nearly $60,000.00 for same length of time. For past ten years they have contributed $468,859.23. This shows what the ladies can do by organization.

This Association will hail the day when with each church letter that is sent in there will be a report showing that the ladies of that respective church are organized and better prepared for the work.

Any messenger who is interested in this line of work can get full instructions and literature on the subject by applying to Mrs. G. R. Farnham, Evergreen, Ala.

Discussed at length by Bros. Lovelace, Sims, Stewart, Lindsey, Murray, Bradley, Bledsoe and Holly. Bro. Holly's remarks were

particularly impressive in the fact of his affiliation with, and benefits derived through, this form of mission work. His personal acknowledgments to Mrs. G. R. Farnham for donations, etc., were made with such pathos as to deeply impress those present of the great good being done by this noble band of Christian workers.

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE AND COLPORTAGE.

Your committee regrets the short time allotted to them in which to prepare this report. Not having an opportunity to digest the letters and ascertain the extent and character of the literature taken and the colportage work done, we think from the best information obtained that the Sunday Schools within this Association take our Southern Baptist Convention series of Sunday School helps, published in Nashville, Tenn., and we cheerfully recommend this series as in every way worthy of our patronage and earnest support. We further recommend that every family within this Association should subscribe for the Alabama Baptist, the Foreign Mission Journal, the Home Field and as many other good Baptist publications as they may be able to take, believing that this is one of the most potent means of keeping abreast with the general work of our denomination. We further suggest the importance of giving encouraging support to the colportage work, believing that it supplies our brethren in the more destitute regions with better facilities for prosecuting their work.

Respectfully submitted,

G. R. FARNHAM, Chairman.

Discussed by Bros. Sims, Howard and others and adopted.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Dear Brethren: Your Executive Committee begs leave to submit the following report:

We put forth our utmost endeavor to put into effect your instructions at your last session, to employ an evangelist for the past year at a salary of six hundred dollars, to work within the bounds of this Association," etc., but failed in the attempt. The chairman called a meeting of the committee on the 22nd of March, 1898, and having with us three of the pastors of the Association, it was the unanimous decision of your committee that the next best thing that could be done was to request the pastors of this Association to co-operate with your committee by giving what time they could to the prosecution of the work designed by this body. And also that we would employ brethren, whose services would be available, to preach at points where there were prospects of accomplishing good and in the future become self-sustaining. The brethren engaged to do this work were required to take up a collection on each Sabbath. The services of Rev. W. M. Rabb were retained for Welcome, where he has labored consecutively for the months of April, May, June, July, August and October, for which services, as per agreement of your committee, this Association is due Bro. Rabb $12.00, less 95 cents, $10.60

Rev. I Spence was engaged to work at Alabama, where he has preached once a month for five months under the same agreement as that with Bro. Rabb, to wit: $2.00 per month. This Association is therefore due Bro. Spence $10.00, less $3.35, amount contributed by Old Town church for associational work. This is the only church in

this Association that has contributed to your committee during the year. Amount still due, $6.65.

We respectfully ask this Association for the means with which to liquidate this indebtedness to the brethren mentioned herein.

Respectfully submitted,
S. P. LINDSEY,
Chm'n Ex. Com.

Discussed by Bros. Lindsey, Bradley, Murray and others and adopted.

On motion, the Association adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Preaching at 7:30 p. m. by Rev. Dr. Ramsey. Text, Heb. 2: 11.

Note.—(A collection of $—— was taken up at night service to liquidate a claim for services of Bros. Spence and Rabb for mission work performed.)

WEDNESDAY—MORNING SESSION.

Exercises resumed at 9 a. m. by song and prayer service, conducted by Bro. A. J. Thames.

Bros. J. B. Powell, of Selma Association, and A. S. Smith, of Harris Association, being present, were cordially invited to seats with this body and to participate in its deliberations.

A petition was read from the church at Wallace, asking for a letter of dismission for the purpose of uniting with the Elim Association. Letter granted.

The following "Query" was received and referred to a special committee:

QUERY—If a Baptist Church excludes one of its members from its fellowship for unchristian conduct, has a sister church of the same faith and order the right to receive said excluded member into its full membership independent of the church which excluded said member? If not, what is the remedy in such case?

Done by order of Antioch church in conference this Oct. 9th, 1898.

G. E. MATHEWS, Clerk. W. H. JOYNER, Moderator.

REPORT.—Your committee respectfully answer the above query by saying, Yes, a church has a right to restore a member from whom another church has withdrawn fellowship, but we believe it would not be expedient. All things are lawful but, not all things are expedient.

JNO. W. STEWART,
W. M. MURRAY.

REPORT ON TIME AND PLACE.

We, your committee on time and place, recommend that the next session of the Conecuh Association be held with Mt. Olive church, in Butler county, on Tuesday after the third Sabbath in October, 1899.

Respectfully submitted.

M. A. RAY,
I. SPENCE,
J. H. KYSER,
} Committee.

Report adopted.

STATE MISSIONS.

Your committee beg leave to submit the following report:

The position of the State Board of Missions in our system of mission work is by few of the Baptists of Alabama correctly estimated. The object of this report will be to place before this body a plain statement of the objects for which this Board was created, and to strive thereby to awaken a deeper interest in its work.

1st. To the State Board is committed all the interests of missions in Alabama, including the interests of the Home Mission Board at Atlanta and the Foreign Mission Board at Richmond. The employees of the State Board are careful to look after these several phases of missions, realizing that distinctions between them are only in name, each having in view the same grand purpose, namely, the extension of the Master's kingdom among men, in obedience to his command. Your committee deem it important that the fact that the State Board has in hand all these interests of missions, it is necessary that it be clearly set forth, for a contribution to the support of the State Board is indirectly a contribution to the Home and Foreign Boards. Attention is called to the evident fact that the prosperity of every phase of the mission work depends upon the prosperity of the State Board. If its policies are vigorously sustained, good results will be seen in every department of our work. Each consecrated man put on the field in Alabama, whether as evangelist, missionary pastor or colporter, adds one to the number who has at heart every interest of the Master's kingdom.

2nd. The State Board is engaged in the following special lines of work:

1. Evangelistical—This means the employment of consecrated men to travel and preach among the churches, striving to awaken a deeper interest in the cause of missions at home and abroad, as well as visiting destitute regions and preaching to the lost the peerless gospel of the blessed God. Of these men there are at present under the employment of the Board brethren A. J. Preston, Southeast Alabama, W. A. Parker, Sr., in Southwest Alabama, J. W. Sandlin, in Northeast Alabama, and Jos. Shackleford in the Northern part of the State. The importance of this work can be better appreciated when we remember that out of the 120,000 white Baptists in the State not more than twelve thousand are making contributions to missions. To add to the number of regular contributors to the cause is greatly to be desired, and must be done if we hope to enlarge the work and to do anything like what ought to be done in Alabama for the advancement of the Master's kingdom.

2. Missionary pastoral work—This work consists in helping to support pastors at important points that give promise of soon growing into self-sustaining churches. Beyond question the brightest page in the history of the State Board is that page that gives record of the work that has been done in this department of labor. There are more than a score of churches that are now strong and self-supporting that in their early history were sustained by the State Board. Indeed, many of them were planted by the Board. But while it is true that a grand work has been done, "there remaineth yet much land to be possessed." Many destitute fields are sounding the Macedonian cry, "Come over and help us," but lack of means prevents the Board from responding favorably.

It is proper to say in this connection that the Secretary of the Board gives much of his time to missionary and evangelistic work. From

these very brief statements we can gather some idea of the importance of the work that is being done by our State Board of Missions. That this work commends itself to our hearty sympathy and support is a most evident fact. Just at this time your committee is in position to know that the Board is sadly in need of funds. The Secretary is struggling to pay the indebtedness of the Board to its employees. Some of these have not been paid in the last year. Your committee speaks with authority when it assures this Association that the State Board of Missions was never in so pressing need of help as now, and we would urge the churches that in the very near future they make a special contribution to this work.

Lastly, we will give a summary of the work for the last conventional year: Number of men employed, 17; days of service, 3,536; miles traveled, 23,747; sermons delivered, 1 831: addresses delivered, 533; churches constituted, 5; persons baptized, 335; Sunday Schools organized, 8; Ladies' Missionary Societies organized, 4; prayer-meetings held, 246; number churches visited, 683; subscriptions to denominational papers, 322; pages of tracts distributed, 40,000; money collected for all missions by missionaries, $4.449.19; money collected for Orphans' Home, $228.81; Bibles given away, 150.

Respectfully submitted,

I. SPENCE, Chairman.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

Your committee beg leave to submit the following report:

While this branch of our work has not accomplished what we desire, yet we feel that it has kept up with the other branches of this work in our Association. Never before in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention has there been so much to encourage and stimulate our people in Home Mission work as at this time. The Lord has greatly blessed our labors in the old fields occupied by the Home Board, while entirely new and greatly enlarged fields are opening up before the Board. This is especially true in our recently acquired territory in Cuba and Porto Rico. As Inquisitorial Spain with her oppression and priest-craft has been driven from these fields, we, the custodians of the pure gospel of Jesus Christ, should go in and at once possess them.

These fields are white unto harvest. The work of the Cuban apostle, Dr. Diaz, has been often referred to as being almost miraculous. He has made wonderful headway in Cuba despite the unrelenting persecutions and imprisonments he has been called on to endure for Christ. Under the ministry of Bro. Diaz a membership of about 2,000 have been gathered into our churches in Cuba. We own a magnificent stone building in the city of Havana, which cost our Home Board $60,000, the original cost of the structure being twice that amount. For a time Bro. Diaz has been driven from his field by the cruel edicts of cruel Spain He is now back on his native soil under the new order and condition of things to resume his former work. Numerous competent and faithful brethren are offering themselves for this Cuban and Porto Rican work.

Notwithstanding all these encouragements and increased and increasing responsibilities confronting us, our share of the work during the past year has been very little indeed. During last year this Association gave $65.00 for this work. J. M. RABB, Chairman.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Your committee believe the subject of missions to be the most im-

portant one that can engage the attention of Christian people. If there be a difference in the importance of our various mission interests (but we think there is none) it arises from environment and not from principle, and since what we call foreign missions is environed by less favorable conditions than any other, that would of course be the most important.

It is estimated that about two-thirds of the human family, or about eight hundred and fifty millions of souls, are in what we call pagan countries. Among these millions, the sixteen hundred thousand white Baptists of the South have in China 40 missionaries, in Africa 3 missionaries, in Japan 6 missionaries. Twenty men and twenty-nine women as missionaries to a lost world! In addition to these, we have in papal countries, countries under Roman Catholic domination, the following: In Italy one missionary, in Brazil thirteen missionaries, in Mexico three missionaries. At our Southern Baptist Convention last May, there was great rejoicing because our Foreign Mission Board was reported out of debt, but the thoughtful could not avoid seeing that it was not so much on account of our increased gifts as it was because of a contraction of our work. Up to that time the number of Missionaries had been reduced about twenty-five per cent. from what it had been a few years ago, and since that time ten of our valued missionaries have left Mexico, so that we have less than seventy missionaries to represent a million and a half of Baptists. This is playing at missions, and all but trifling with serious things.

From our general reports it appears that Alabama's gifts to Foreign Missions last year was about 4 1-2 cents per member, and from reports just received we gather this Association has given about 7 cents per member, while three fourths of the churches, with a membership aggregating almost one thousand have reported not a cent given to this cause. And yet we are Missionary Baptists! Either we must change our name or amend our manners.

Have we heard the voice of our risen Lord saying, "Go ye!" Have we heard the Macedonian cry, "Come over and help us!" And will we sit idly by and deceive ourselves that we are obeying God, when truth is, we have simply refused longer to hear his orders?

Your committee recommend an awakening to duty on the part of the pastors and a calling to duty of the churches.

Respectfully submitted,

Jno. W. Stewart, Chairman.

On motion all of the foregoing reports were read and discussed as a whole by Bros. Bledsoe, Powell, Smith, Sims and others and adopted.

The hour of 11:30 arriving Rev. J. W. Stewart preached from Matt. 28:18-20.

Adjournment at noon, when another bountiful repast was served on the church grounds.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Exercises resumed by song and praise service conducted by Bro. W. M. Rabb.

The following additional committees presented reports:

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

State Missions—J. W. Stewart, E. P. Lovelace, M. A. Ray.

Home Missions—A. T. Sims, M. A. Whitehurst and W. H. Anderson.

Foreign Missions—C. S. Rabb, H. C. Rankin and A. Pittman.

Christian Education—J. A. Liner, D. Gillis, J. E. Cheatham.

Woman's Work—G. R. Farnham, Dr. M. McCreary, U. C. Vinson.

Sunday Schools—Alex Stewart, William Dunlap, Peter Spence.

Temperance—J. F. Jones, N. R. Leigh, Jr., J. H. McClure.

Institute Work—A. T. Sims, J. T. Fincher, J. W. Crook.

Orphans' Home—W. M. Murray, J. M. Rabb, Dr. J. A. McCreary.

Executive Committee—S. P. Lindsey, C. S. Rabb, Dr. P. M. Bruner, E. P. Lovelace and D. M. Powell.

Introductory Sermon—S. P. Lindsey; alternate, I. Spence.

Missionary Sermon—W. M. Murray; alternate, A. T. Sims.

Delegate to Southern Baptist Convention—J. W. Stewart; alternate, A. T. Sims.

Delegates to State Convention—M. F. Brooks, C. S. Rabb A. T. Sims, S. P. Lindsey, N. R. Leigh, Jr., J. H. Higdon, B. B. McKenzie, W. D. Kyle, Rev. W. M. Murray, W. T. Smith.

Respectfully submitted,

L. M. Bradley,
W. M. Rabb,
I. D. Stewart.

Adopted.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

While this subject has been prominent before the public mind for quite a while, and while it has engaged the best thoughts of the wise and good of all lands, and while it seems that our people ought to be thoroughly acquainted with the extent of its evils and the best methods of dealing with it, and while our reports and speeches have not accomplished what the temperance advocates have hoped they would, yet none will deny that there has been and will be good accomplished by the agitation of the question. Therefore we present the following suggestions for your consideration. Facts cannot be denied, and the experience of men of ripe wisdom and broad information are invaluable in the discussion of any subject.

1. The magnitude of the enterprise.—There are 241,000 saloons in the United States, and saying nothing about the men who are employed in making and wholesaling liquor, there are 1,205,000 employed annually in the retailing of intoxicating liquors The saloons in New York City, alone, if placed side by side, would extend, in unbroken front, for 73 miles. There is a canal of liquor flowing through this country annually, 50 miles in length, 40 feet wide, and ten feet deep, and 60,000 men are found dead in it every year.

2. Intemperance is the mother of crime.—Lord Brougham, (Bro-am) said, "Drink is the mother of want and the nurse of crime." Judge Noah Davis declares, "Of all causes that lead to crime, intemperance stands forth as the unapproachable chief." Chief Justice Coleridge affirmed that 85 per cent of all crimes are due to drink. Hon. Elisha Harris said 80 per cent of all crimes can be traced to the use of intoxicating drink. Sir. Walter Hale asserted, more than once, that 85 per cent of all crimes had their origin in drink. Carroll Wright declares after extended observation and careful investigation, that drink is the mother of 90 per cent of all crime. Lord Justice

Hannen claims that drink is the direct cause of not less than 75 per cent of the immoral and unscriptural divorces which our courts grant.

While these figures may be too high for our immediate locality, yet there are none who read or think but will agree that, taking the country as a whole, this estimate is none too great.

3. Intemperance not only leads to crime, but it is a crime.—Ruskin said: "Drunkenness does not only lead to crime, but is a crime." The late Mr. Gladstone said, "Intemperance is a greater curse than famine, pestilence and war combined." Hon. Carroll Wright, U. S. Commissioner of Labor, recently declared that for every dollar derived by the government in revenue from the liquor traffic, twenty-one dollars comes out of the pocket of the working man.

A recent careful and exhaustive estimate in the "Cyclopedia of Temperance" places the cost to this country every year by reason of the idleness, insanity, sickness and crime due to drink, at not less than $2,000,000,000. Our main items of national expenditures annually, are as follows:

Foreign missionary work	$ 5,000,000
Support of all churches at home	85,000,000
Public school education	170,000,000
Cotton goods	190,000,000
Boots and shoes	200,000,000
Meat	315,000,000
Bread	505,000,000
Tobacco	630,000,000
Liquor	1,200,000,000

You may take these figures, which are practically correct, and you will see while we expend for all religious and educational purposes, for all cotton goods, which is the principal fabric of all our clothing, our foot wear, meat and bread, is only $1,470,000,000; the intoxicating liquors alone which is consumed costs $1,200,000,000, nearly as much.

A committee appointed by the Canadian Parliament, reported that out of 28,244 commitments to prison, 22,134 were due to drunkenness, or to crime committed while drunk.

Of 359 inmates in a Pennsylvania almshouse, 347 have been more or less addicted to drink. Of 50 in another, 48 were of intemperate habits. In conclusion, let me quote a few passages from the inspired Word: "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink." "Look not thou upon the wine." "At the last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder." "The drunkard cometh to poverty." "No drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of God."

Then what shall we do? Practice total abstinence, sign no petition for anyone to sell intoxicating liquors, vote for sober men and for national prohibition if you can, if not, vote for local prohibition, and preach the gospel to the people, which is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.

L. M. Bradley,
S. P. Lindsey.

Discussed by Bros. Bradley, Sims, Howard and others. Adopted.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

It is needless to consume the time of the Association or space in the minutes with a lengthy report on this subject. We need more work and not so much talk. We need men and women to put their shoulders to the wheel, and then the words of Solomon will come to pass where he said, "Teach the children in the way that they should go,

and when they get old they will not depart from it," and we know no other way that it can be done better than in the Sunday School. We recommend our Sunday School Board and its literature to our brethren, and recommend that they order their literature from the State Board of Missions at Montgomery, which will supply them at the same cost and at the same time get a small per centage for missions. We would urge upon our pastors to do all they can to organize a school at every church and to press the work on its members, knowing that we shall reap if we faint not.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN W. JOYNER, Chairman.

Discussed by Bros. Farnham, Rabb, Lindsey and others. Adopted.

A very interesting report and address was delivered by Rev. G. S. Anderson, of Auburn, on Institute work. The speaker presented several very startling statistical reports regarding the illiteracy of the ministry, and in his usual eloquent manner set forth the necessities and advantages of this method of self education.

NIGHT SESSION.

Exercises opened with song and prayer service, conducted by Rev. G. S. Anderson.

REPORT ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION.

Your Committee on Education beg leave to report that, such are the relations of this Association to the matter of education, as fostered under Baptist auspices, as to require special allusion to each one separately. Considering them thus, we may mention:

I. MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

In the training of its ministry the Baptist denomination has been consistent throughout history. It has always had a ministry equal to the demand of each successive period. As schools and colleges have multiplied, and the masses have been intellectually trained, there has been a demand for a corresponding elevation of intellectual excellence in our ministerial education. Today it is, as it has ever been, we have men equally fitted for the obscure, or pioneer region, and for the most conspicuous pulpits of the world. The Baptists of Alabama are directly interested in the education of young ministers at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and at Howard College. Worthy young brethren from our State have been in attendance upon these institutions. We are pledged to aid in the support of these. During the past scholastic year the attendance at the Seminary from Alabama is reported to be 15; at Howard College 35. The number from the Conecuh Association in the Seminary, 1; in the Howard, 2. Amount contributed to these two institutions by this Association, $34.83. Of the thirty-two churches composing this Association, five contributed this amount, viz: Greenville, Brewton, Georgiana, Evergreen and Castleberry.

II. THE EDUCATION OF OUR GIRLS.

The Baptists of Alabama have an institution of learning for the education of young women, which is the peer of any in the South, and the superior of most of them. The Judson is at Marion, and has been for many years the Baptist School of instruction for girls. Its record

of high standing is well known to the Baptists of Alabama and throughout the South. From the Judson catalogue we find a total enrollment of 168 pupils. This institution suffered a severe loss in the death of its beloved president, Dr. S. W. Averett, but God had prepared a Joshua in the person of Dr. R. G. Patrick, and the Judson is moving grandly on and the prospects for the present session are reported brighter than usual at this date.

III. THE EDUCATION OF OUR BOYS.

Howard College, located at East Lake, had a prosperous session the past year. Notwithstanding the financial embarrassment under which it has labored for several years, and the frequent changes of presidents, it is still in existence and reports an enrollment of 145 pupils. This institution, though laboring for some time without a president, has recently put at its head Prof. F. M. Roof, whom the chairman of your committee knows personally to be an educator of rare ability, and the outlook of this school is altogether encouraging.

The committee begs leave to call the earnest attention of this Association to the importance of giving a more liberal support to the causes we have named than it has done in the past, and that the churches be urged to contribute not only their means, but also their influence and patronage. Respectfully submitted,

J. A. LINER,
W. M. MURRAY,
A. T. SIMS,
Committee.

Discussed at length by Bros. Liner, Howard and others.

Bro. Howard, while discussing the foregoing, took occasion to refer to the efforts of young Bro. Will Talliaferro, whom none know but love, and of the necessity of some pecuniary assistance required in aiding him to complete his ministerial course at the Louisville Seminary. Bro. Howard's suggestion that a subscription be at once raised met with a generous approval, and the sum of $145.00 in cash and pledges was at once raised.

The following preamble and resolution was presented by Bro. Lindsey:

Whereas, we as a body of Christian people, for years have seen the evil influence, and dastardly deeds growing out of the whisky habit; and, further, that we may unmistakably throw our influence, as followers of the meek and lowly Nazarene, who is Lord of all, as a mantle around the helpless women of our country in protecting and aiding them in their efforts to keep the lives of their sons untainted by the many sinful practices and habits which are concomitants of the debasing habit of drunkenness, therefore,

Be it Resolved, That this Association advises the churches in its constituency, not to retain in their fellowship members who use intoxicants as a beverage, or engage in the manufacture or sale of the same; or who sign petitions for license to sell intoxicants.

Discussed by Bros. Lindsey, Stewart, Howard, Lovelace and others and adopted.

On motion the Clerk was instructed to assist Bro. McCreary in correcting errors in report on finance. These errors are occasioned main-

ly from inaccuracies of church letters, and to which the Clerks' attention are hereby earnestly called to this in making their future reports.

Bro. Bradley submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be extended to the church and community of Evergreen for their kind hospitality.

Adjourned to meet at Orphans' Home, tomorrow at 9 o'clock a. m.

THURSDAY SESSION.

DEDICATION OF THE ORPHANS' HOME.

The 12th Annual Convention of the Conecuh Baptist Association ended its labors today in the pleasant and impressive ceremony of dedicating the Louise Short Baptist Widows and Orphans' Home of Alabama.

This institution was founded by the Baptists of Alabama, at Evergreen, on March 10, 1893, and, though only about five years old, has grown to such proportions as to challenge the admiration of the State at large. Father Ryan, illustrating the tie which binds more tenderly, says: "A land that wears a laurel crown may be fair to see; but twine a few sad cypress leaves around its brow, and be that land barren, beautiless and bleak, it becomes lovely in its consecrated coronet of sorrow and wins the sympathy of the heart and of history." And thus it is with a home for the helpless orphan. Though humble and unpretentious, subsisting as it were solely upon the free offerings of a generous public, yet, withal, it carries with it a certain mesmeric tie which touches most deeply the human heart, and as such it goes on from day to day, and year to year, gathering strength and support, until at last it becomes one of the great pillars of character and civilization, whose benign influence is felt far and wide. Such is, or soon will be, the Louise Short Baptist Orphanage. The Baptists of Alabama have founded it in faith and prayer. God will lend his holy sanction, and as the years go by it will become a pride of the denomination and a credit to the State and country.

The order of exercises were as follows:

8:30 a. m. Meeting of Board of Trustees.

9:30 a. m. Introductory remarks by Hon. G. R. Farnham, President Board of Trustees. Songs and Scripture recitations by the children. Prayer by Rev. J. D. Powell.

10:30 a. m. Historical Sketch by Rev. J. W. Stewart. The Orphans' Home a Necessity, Rev. W. M. Murray. Song by children. The Orphans' Home a Benediction, Rev. A. S. Smith. Song by children. The Orphans' Home a gift to the Lord, Rev. W. C. Bledsoe. Benediction, Dr. Ramsey.

Prior to final adjournment of the Association, order of business was again resumed, Bro. Farnham Moderator pro tem. It being found

that there still remained a small deficit on Orphanage in way of grocery account, back salary of certain employes, &c., a collection was taken up resulting in cash and pledges amounting to $75.00, which was feelingly and gratefully acknowledged by Bro. Stewart on behalf of the Orphanage.

A sumptuous dinner was served in the handsome dining hall of the Orphanage, where everybody present fared royally.

At the hour of 1:30 p. m. the Association adjourned sine die.

M. F. BROOKS, MODERATOR,

W. D. KYLE, CLERK.

NOTE—The Clerk takes this method of thanking Bro. M. M. Wood, Statistical Secretary, for the following compliment: "The minutes of last year are a great improvement over anything that I have seen before."

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ORDAINED MINISTERS.

L. M. Bradley	Brewton,	Ala.
W. D. Brooks	Fairfield,	"
L. B. Cohron	Chapman,	"
E. C. Clayton	Brooklyn,	"
J. E. Deer	Roberts,	"
W. H. Joyner	Shell,	"
R. C. Kirkland	Volina,	"
S. P. Lindsey	Evergreen,	"
W. M. Murray	Georgiana.	"
W. M. Rabb	Garland,	"
J. W. Stewart	Evergreen,	"
A. T. Sims	Georgiana,	"
I. Spence	Evergreen,	"
G. L. Sutton	Brewton,	"
J. E. Thames	Brooklyn,	"

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TREASURER'S REPORT.

To amount received from Finance Committee			$69 87
By amount paid W. J. Stewart, Baptist Orphanage	$ 2 70		
W. C. Bledsoe, State Missions	24 07		
" " Foreign Missions	12 45		
" " Home Missions	3 75		
" " Ministerial Education	2 50		
Printing Minutes, expressage, postage, etc	24 40	—	69 87

W. D. KYLE, Treasurer.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, who, on producing their credentials, shall be entitled to seats.

Art. 2. The members thus chosen and convened shall be known by the name of the "Conecuh Baptist Association," who shall usurp no authority over the churches in our union, or infringe on any of their internal rights, but shall be merely an advisory council in all matters relative to their internal concerns. It nevertheless, claims authority over its own members, the delegates of the churches, and in justice and propriety must have power to withdraw from and disown all churches that depart from the principles to this compact, by becoming heterodox in faith or disorderly in practice. Its principal business shall be to cultivate union and fellowship with all the churches of Christ, and the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom, especially with those united in the Association.

Art. 3. Every church in our union shall be entitled to three delegates, and for every twenty-five (or fractional part) over fifty members, an additional delegate. Through them shall be transmitted to every annual session of this Association a letter specifying the names of their messengers, number in fellowship, excluded, restored, deceased, licensed or ordained to preach the gospel since last session; also postoffice, Sabbath of meeting, by whom supplied, amount paid pastor, and the amount contributed for the different benevolent objects fostered by this body, and the number, average and attendance at Sunday Schools, also name of Sunday School superintendent.

Art. 4. New churches may be admitted into our union by messengers bringing petitionary letters if upon due examination they be found orderly and orthodox. The moderator shall be elected by, and of the members present, whose duty it shall be to see that the Rules of Decorum are strictly observed, and to take the voice of the Association on all the subjects legally introduced. A clerk shall be elected, whose duty it shall be to keep a correct record of all the proceedings and discharge such other duties as may pertain to his office. Also, a Treasurer shall be elected, whose duty it shall be to receive all money belonging to the Association and disburse it as directed by the body, and present annually for insertion in the Minutes a clear and full statement of all receipts and expenditures.

Art. 5. The Association shall furnish the churches with the Minutes of every session in proportion to the Minute fund sent up by each individual church.

Art. 6. The Association shall have a fund supplied by the voluntary contributions of churches, and all money raised during the year for any kind of missionary education, or any other kind of benevolent purposes, shall be sent to the Corresponding Secretary of the State Mission Board, and a duplicate receipt taken by each church and the receipt deposited with the Treasurer of this Association, provided, that the funds for State Missions be held subject to the order of the Executive Committee of this Association.

Art. 7. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of this Association to keep a regular file of printed minutes of every session of this body, and deliver the same to his successor in office.

Art. 8. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by proper Rules of Decorum, which it is authorized to form and amend according to its own views.

Art. 9. This constitution may be altered or amended at regular

meetings of the Association by a concurring voice of two-thirds of the members.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.
2. At every annual meeting of the Association, immediately after the delegates' names are enrolled, tellers shall be appointed by the Chair, and the Association shall proceed to choose from among their number a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who are to hold their offices until the new ones are chosen.
3. The Moderator shall take the chair every day at the hour to which the Association shall have adjourned on the preceding day; shall immediately call the members to order, and on the appearance of a quorum, shall cause the Minutes of the preceding day to be read.
4. He shall preserve order and decorum; may speak on the points of order in preference to other members, rising from his seat for that purpose; and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal from the Association by any two members, on which appeal no member shall speak more than once unless by leave of the Association.
5. He shall rise to put a question, but may state it sitting.
6. Questions shall be distinctly put; those voting in the affirmative shall say aye, and those of a contrary opinion, no. If the Moderator doubts, or a division be called for, the delegates shall divide; those voting in the affirmative shall first arise from their seats, and afterwards those voting in the negative.
7. The Moderator shall appoint all committees, unless otherwise especially directed by the Association.
8. In all cases of election, the Moderator may vote; in other cases he shall not vote. He may speak on any question, provided he shall call some other member to the chair while he is speaking.
9. The Clerk shall enroll the names of the delegates, minute the proceedings of the body, and perform such other duties as the Association may direct.
10. The Treasurer shall receive, account for and pay out all moneys belonging to this body according to the instruction of the Association, and perform such other duties as the Association may direct.
11. When any member is about to speak or deliver any matter to the Association, he shall rise from his seat and respectfully address the Moderator, and shall confine himself to the question under debate and avoid personalties.
12. If any member, in speaking or otherwise transgress the rules of the Association, the Moderator shall, or any member may, call him to order, in which case the member so called to order shall immediately sit down, unless permitted to explain, and the Association shall, if appealed to, decide on the case, but without debate. If there is no appeal, the decision of the chair shall be submitted to; if the decision be in favor of the member called to order, he shall be at liberty to proceed; otherwise he shall not be permitted to proceed in case any member objects, without leave of the Association.
13. When two or more members rise at once, the Moderator shall name the one to speak first.
14. No member shall speak more than once on the same question without leave of the Association, unless he be the mover, proposer or introducer of the matter pending, in which case he shall be permitted

to speak in reply, but not until every member wishing to speak, has spoken.

15. Every member who shall be in the house when a question is put, shall give his vote, unless the Association for special reason excuse him.

16. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the chair, or, if in writing, handed to the Moderator and read aloud before debate.

17. Every motion shall be reduced to writing, if the chair or any member desire it.

18. After a motion is stated by the chair, or read aloud by the Clerk, it shall be deemed to be in possession of the body, but may be withdrawn by leave of the Association at any time before a decision or amendment.

19. When a question is under debate no motion shall be entertained but to adjourn, to lay on the table for the previous question, to postpone to a certain day, to commit or amend, to postpone indefinitely; which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are arranged; no motion to postpone to a certain day, to commit, or to postpone indefinitely, being decided, shall again be allowed during the session.

20. A motion to adjourn shall always be in order, except the Association be engaged in voting.

21. On a previous question there shall be no debate. All incidental questions of order, arising after a motion is made for the previous question and pending such motion, shall be decided, whether on appeal or otherwise, without debate.

22. The previous question shall be in this form: "Shall the main question be now put?" It shall only be admitted when demanded by a majority of the members present; its effect shall be to put an end to all debate and bring the Association to a direct vote upon amendments reported by committee, if any, and then the main question.

23. No motion or a proposition on a different subject from that under consideration, shall be admitted under color of amendment.

24. When a motion has once been made and carried in the affirmative or negative, it shall be in order for any member of the majority to move a reconsideration thereof on the same or succeeding business day, and such motion shall take precedence over all other questions, except a motion to adjourn.

25. No member shall absent himself from the house without leave of the Moderator, or leave the meeting without permission of the Association.

26. Should any member of this Association absent himself before the close of the session, without permission of the body, he shall be marked in the Minutes as absent without leave.

DIRECTORY.

Orphan's Home, Evergreen, Ala., J. W. Stewart, Manager.
Howard College, East Lake, Ala., A. D. Smith, Ch'n of Faculty.
Judson Institute, Marion, Ala., R. G. Patrick, President.
State Board of Missions, Montgomery, Ala., W. C. Bledsoe, Sec'y.
Southern Baptist Sunday School Literature, Nashville, Tenn., J. M. Frost, Secretary.
"Foreign Mission Journal." Richmond, Va.
"Alabama Baptist," Montgomery, Ala.
Foreign Mission Board, R. Willingham, Sec'y, Richmond, Va.
Home Mission Board, I. T. Tichenor, Sec'y, Atlanta, Ga.